Identification of organisations spreading communalism

*105. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the organisations which are spreading communal feelings in the country;

(b) if so, the names of these organisations; and

(c) the details of steps taken to ban such organisations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The activities of all organisations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken, where necessary.

Free Electricity Supply to Farmers

*106. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are supplying electricity to farmers free of cost;

(b) whether there is a demand from certain other States that Central Government share the cost of power supply to farmers;

(c) if so, the Central Government's response thereto; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue guidelines to State Governments/ State Electricity Boards to bring about uniformity in this matter throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) as per information available in the Central Electrity Authority presently States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu are supplying Electricity to farmers free of charge.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During the Chief Ministers Conference held in December 1996, Common Minimum Action Plan was drawn up which envisaged that the tariff for agriculture Sector will not be less than 50 P/ KWH to be brought to 50% of average cost of supply in not more than 3 years.

With the enactment of ERC Act. 1998,. the powers to fix the tariff for retail consumers including agriculture sector rests with the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. The State Electricity Regulatorty Commissions while determining the terms and conditions for the fixation of tariff shall be guided interalia by the interests of consumers and shall ensure that the consumers pay for the use of electricity in a reasonable manner based on the average cost of supply of energy.

Court cases filed by defence personnel

*107. SHRI KARMENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a trend of military officers approaching civil courts for redressal of their grievances relating to service matter;

(b) if so, the number of cases filed by army personnel in civil courts during the last three years, upto 28th February, 1999;

(c) whether Government propose to have a Court of Military Appeals, on the lines of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), for their service matters; and

(d) whether these large number of cases reflect mismanagement within the Services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The number of cases filed by Army personnel including Ex-Servicemen in Supreme Court and various High Courts during the last three years are indicated below:—

Year	High Court	Supreme Court
1996	1185	38
1997	1255	34
1998	1395	33
1999 (February'99)	104	2

(c) Government had earlier agreed in principle to set up an Armed Forces Administrative and Court Martial Tribunal in respect of the Armed Forces personnel. Thereafter, certain legal and administrative issues have come up in further processing the matter. After a detailed consideration of these issues, a final view will be taken.

(d) No, Sir.

Post-graduate study opportunities to non-service personnel in AMS

*108. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether post-graduate study opportunities in Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Orthopaedics and other clinical subjects in Army Medical Service (AMS) are squandered by way of offering them to non-service medical graduates, even when AMS personnel, fully eligible for such post-graduate studies, are available within the service;

(b) if so, how many such opportunities were given to non-service personnel in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Post Graduate study opportunities in the Army Medical Corps.(AMC) are available at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, Research & Referral Hospital, Delhi Cantt. Command Hospital (Air Force), Bangalore and INHS Asvini, Mumbai. All post graduate seats in the Service Institutions are allotted strictly on the basis of merit-cum-choice following a Central PG entrance examination. Service officers who, on study leave, join AFMC Pune, for super specialisation, however, do not have to go through a written test for admission. AMC personnel have prior claim on the PG seats, depending upon the Service requirements. However, PG seats which are not availed of by the Service personnel are offered to other categories like Foreign sponsored candidates, ex-SSC officers and lastly, if any seats remain, to Civilian Doctors. Thus, the opportunities for the Post Graduate studies available to the Army Medical Corps personnel are not squandered.

Details of year-wise allotment of seats which were not required by the AMC and given to non-service personnel are given in the Statement.

Statement

Hospital/Year	Foreign candidates	Para Military officers	Ex-Service officers	Civilians
AFMC Pune				
1995-96	—	04	07	13
1996-97	—	—	08	16